

Appl. No. 10/027,721
Amdt.. Dated October 17, 2003
Reply to Office action mailed July 17, 2003 (Paper No. 9)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action mailed July 17, 2003 (Paper No. 9). Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-12 were pending in the application. Claims 7, 11 and 12 have been amended herein. Accordingly, following entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-12 will be pending. As set forth more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to Claim 11 as containing a grammatical error. Applicants have amended Claim 11 to correct the grammar.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,866,964 (hereinafter "Hall"). Applicants have amended Claims 7 and 12 to specify that when the rotor is rotated by the key, the back spring urges the rotor in a direction opposite to the direction of the rotation.

The device disclosed in Hall includes a spring clip (32) that prevents a removable core (14) from coming out of a core lock (10). However, when the removable core (14) is rotated by an operating key (22), the spring clip (32) does not urge the removable core (14) in a direction opposite to the direction of the rotation. Therefore, there is a structural difference between the present invention and the device disclosed in Hall and Claims 7 and 12 are patentable over Hall

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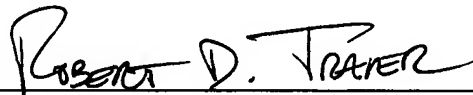
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because Hall fails to disclose a back spring for urging a rotor in a direction opposite to the direction of the rotation of the rotor. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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